

## New software delivers real-time targeting

*by Francis L. Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — Real-time targeting information available to the combat controller can now be immediately sent to Close Air Support (CAS) pilots as authorized targets over existing communication networks. This communications technology was developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory's Information and Sensors Directorates.

"This 'machine-to-machine' targeting software was introduced and tested at the 720th Special Tactics Group CAS Conference and Training Exercise Dec. 11-17 near Las Vegas," said Dr. David Hench, of the Center for Integrated Transmission and Exploitation (CITE), project engineer for the Information Directorate. "Four missions were run as part of the training exercise."

"The advanced software was used by terminal air controllers on laptop computers at the Nellis Air Force Base Test Range to produce targeting solutions and communicate to the Combined Air Operation Center (CAOC) at Nellis using satellite radios. The software was also installed in the CAOC to receive the targeting solution, and the solution was transmitted over communication links to both F-15 and F-16 CAS aircraft that were supporting the mission.

"This testing confirmed the full functionality of the software to significantly reduce the targeting-kill chain process time," said Dr. Hench. "Exercise participants were exceptionally pleased with the effectiveness and responsiveness of this new targeting technology development." @